



Wee Are Here Area (WAHA)

Group Service Representative (GSR)

Orientation

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Group Service Representatives (GSR)

Each group elects one group service representative; even those groups hosting more than one recovery meeting elect just one GSR. These GSRs form the foundation of our service structure. GSRs provide constant, active influence over the discussions being carried on within the service structure. They do this by participating in area service committee meetings, attending forums and assemblies at both the area and regional levels, and sometimes joining in the work of an ASC sub-committee. If we are vigilant in choosing stable, qualified leaders at this level of service, the remainder of the structure will almost certainly be sound. From this strong foundation, a service structure can be built that will nourish, inform, and support the groups in the same way that that groups nourish and support the structure.

Group Service Representatives bear great responsibility. While GSRs are elected by and accountable to the group, they are not mere group messengers. They are selected by their groups to serve as active members of the area service committee. As such, they are responsible to act in the best interest of NA as a whole, not solely as advocates of their groups' priorities. As participants in the area committee GSRs need to be as well informed as they can be concerning the affairs of the committee. They study the reports of the committee's officers and sub-committee chairpersons. They read the various handbooks published by the world service office on each area of service. After carefully considering their own conscience and what they know about how their group members feel, they take active, critical parts in the discussions which form the group conscience of the entire committee.

Group Service Representatives link their groups with the rest of the NA service structure, particularly through the information conveyed in their reports to and from the area committee. At group business meetings, the GSR report provides a summary of area committee activities, often sparking discussions among group members that provide the GSR with a feel for how the area can better serve the groups need. In group recovery meetings, GSRs make available flyers announcing area and regional activities.

At area committee meetings, GSR reports provide perspectives on group growth vital to the committee's work. If a group is having problems, its GSR can share those problems with the committee in his or her report. And if the group hasn't found solutions to those problems, the area chairperson will open a slot on the committee's 'sharing session'1 agenda so that the GSR can gather the experience others have had in similar situations. If any helpful solutions arise from the sharing session, the GSR can report those back to the group.

GSR Orientation

Qualifications for a GSR

- Is an addict.
- Attends the group they represent.
- Has a willingness to serve.
- Meets the clean time requirements as established by their local group.
- Has knowledge of the service structure of NA or the willingness to study it.
- Has an understanding of or the willingness to learn the duties of a GSR.

What is a GSR?

- A trusted servant of their group.
- The voice/voting member of their group at the Area Service Committee. (ASC)
- The voice of area at their group.
- The financial link between their group and the ASC.
- The group's main source of information about service, activities, and events.
- The group's source of information on how to get involved in service work.
- An important source of information for the group about the traditions.
- The trusted servant who attends to the specific needs of the group including questions regarding Traditions, Policy, and the 12 Concepts.

How do they do it?

- Attend the group meeting regularly.
- Attend the ASC meeting monthly.
- Report to the ASC the group status, donation, problems, concerns, change of meeting time/place to update phone and meeting lists,
- Bring issues from the ASC to the group for a group conscience and report back to the ASC.
- Learn about the subcommittees of the ASC.
- What do the various subcommittees do?/When do they meet?/Who may attend?
- Which subcommittees need support?
- Attend subcommittee meetings.
- Learn the service structure.
- Learn what the ASC, Regional Service Committee (RSC), World Service Conference (WSC) and the World Service Organization (WSO), etc are.
- Study the Group Service Booklet, Guide to Local Service and the WAHA guidelines.

GSR Orientation

How does a group take care of its business?

- At the monthly business meeting, where the recommendations are voted on for literature purchases, Area donations, rent, etc.
- By group conscience. (please see section on group conscience)
- By holding elections of trusted servant positions as needed with prior notice if possible.
- By sending their GSR or group representative to the ASC monthly.
- By creating an ad-hoc committee when needed.
- By holding special business meetings when important issue surface, like literature review, a group conscience, etc.

Should a GSR hold more than one group office?

- It is suggested that members hold only one service position in the group. As many members as possible need to be involved in service, it is an important part of recovery!

What if the positions are at two different meetings?

- In order to provide service opportunities to more members, it is suggested that groups elect addicts who do not serve in other groups service positions.

How does a group communicate concerns to the GSR?

- The group or any member may bring concerns to the GSR's attention at that group meeting.

How do you let the group know who the GSR is?

- The secretary can introduce the GSR along with other group servants either at the beginning of the meeting or at the end when trusted servants are usually acknowledged.

What about GSR reports? How often?

- Usually GSRs make one report to the group at the monthly business meeting. Most groups do not like to spend meeting time with reports.

GSR Orientation

What is a group conscience?

- An informed vote taken by the group as a whole.
- An expression of God's will. (Concept 6)
- Is best for the group as a whole.
- Is the practice of placing principles before personalities (Tradition 12)

When may a group conscience be initiated?

- A group conscience may be initiated anytime during a group business meeting if a member feels it's necessary.

How much notice should there be before a new GSR or Alternate GSR is elected?

These guidelines are established by the local group.

How does the Area donation get from the group to the Area?

- The group decides at their regular monthly business meeting if and how much of a donation they can make to the ASC. A check or money is prepared and sent with the GSR or group representative to the regular monthly ASC meeting.

GSR report: Group level-may include -

- Attendance of groups and Elected trusted servants of the ASC.
- Open positions at Area and Region.
- Motions carried back to the group.
- Points of discussions made during the ASC.
- Open positions within the sub-committees.
- Passing over the Area announcements to the group secretary.
- Announce Area/Regional Activities during the regular meeting.

Points the GSR should be mindful of at the ASC -

- The GSR orientation is designed to help GSR's better understand the on goings at the ASC. i.e. The agenda, how to make a motion, who to go to for certain questions etc.
- Does the GSR feel comfortable at the ASC.
- Are the trusted servants fulfilling their obligations to the ASC?
- Are they getting the necessary information regarding the ASC/RSC/WSC?

How to submit a GSR Report

On your computer open the Narcotics Anonymous Minnesota Region website.
<http://www.naminnnesota.org/>

NOTE: Internet Explorer may not work correctly for the MN region website. Please use another internet browser to access the site.

On the left hand side of the page you will see Area Service (ASCs). Scroll your mouse over the ASC and then the Wee Are Here Area and finally the Submit your GSR report. Submit your report.

Resources to assist the GSR

WAHANASC Guidelines (Bylaws)
Narcotics Anonymous Group Booklet
Guide to Local Services
Twelve Concepts Booklet

NOTE: The above mentioned resources can be found in the WAHA Drop Box-this link can be emailed to you by request.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/z6wrbdlfoxw6tf5/AACVD0i50tlqZGw9OBOSTB4Aa>

Narcotics Anonymous Minnesota Region (NAMNRSC) website-<http://www.naminnnesota.org/>
Minnesota Region Helpline (877) 767-7676 TOLL FREE
Midwest Zonal Forum (MZF) website- <http://www.mzfna.org/>
Narcotics Anonymous World Service (NAWS) website- <http://www.na.org/>

Narcotics Anonymous-mobile tools

IPhone Apps-NA Meeting Search (NA World Service, Inc.)
MNNA (Minnesota Region of NA)

Android or Windows Phones with Internet access-open above websites, they will recognize that you are using a Smartphone and open the Find a Meeting.

Reminders for WAHASC

BE PREPARED AHEAD OF TIME!!

1. ALWAYS BRING: The Guide to Local Services (GTLS), the WAHA Guidelines, and The 12 Concepts of N.A. It is up to you (the GSR) to become familiar with these guidelines.

(The 12 Concepts of N.A. can be found in the GTLS or the separate booklet available for purchase.)

2. Literature Form/Area Donation: Fill out your Literature Order Form and/or Area donation AHEAD OF TIME so you can hand it/them to the treasurer/literature chair as soon as you enter the building

3. Group Report: Fill out your Group Report AHEAD OF TIME so you can email or hand it to the Secretary before the meeting. The Secretary will email minutes, along with group and subcommittee reports, to you- please provide an email to the Secretary.

Minutes will contain motions to vote on as well as sub-committee reports.

4. Flyers: Pick up copies of flyers on the back table if they are not already distributed on the main tables. It's YOUR responsibility to obtain copies of these flyers and/or direct members to the MNRSC site for upcoming activities each month.

PREPARE FOR NEXT TIME!!

1. Bring all flyers and reports back to your groups for discussion and archives.

2. If you don't understand something, ASK SOMEONE!

3. Speak with other GSRs, members of your home group, members and officers of sub-committees, members of the Administrative Committee, or anyone else about current motions being considered. The more you understand, the more informed a decision you can make when it comes time to vote at your groups and at Area.

Service Structure of Narcotics Anonymous

The following is a brief description of the service units of Narcotics Anonymous. A more complete description of service on the local level including groups, areas, regions, etc., can be found in the Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous. Additional information about NA World Services may be found in A Guide to World Services in Narcotics Anonymous.

The NA Group

NA groups are local, informal associations of recovering addicts. They are the foundation of the NA service structure. Groups are formed for the primary purpose of carrying the NA message of recovery, and all their activities should reflect that purpose. Conducting Narcotics Anonymous meetings is the primary activity of an NA group. The group may conduct its own affairs in whatever way seems fit to its members, provided the group's actions are consistent with NA's Twelve Traditions, and do not adversely affect other groups or the entire NA Fellowship. In the conduct of the affairs of NA as a whole, the groups delegate to the rest of the service structure the responsibility for the fulfillment of NA services. Group service representatives (GSRs) are elected to participate on behalf of the groups in the area committee and the regional assembly.

The Area Service Committee (ASC)

The area committee is the primary means by which the services of a local NA community are administered. The area committee is composed of group service representatives, administrative officers (chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer), subcommittee chairpersons, and the area's regional committee members. The area committee elects its own officers, subcommittee chairpersons, and RCMs.

The Regional Service Committee (RSC)

Regional service committees exist to pool the experience and resources of the areas and groups it serves. The RSC is composed of regional committee members (RCMs) elected by the region's member-areas; these RCMs usually elect regional committee officers from among themselves. RSCs organize regional assemblies, at which GSRs and RCMs discuss a wide range of service matters, including those likely to come before the World Service Conference, and may elect a regional delegate and alternate delegate to the WSC.

Zonal Forums

Zonal forums are service-oriented sharing and/or business sessions that provide the means by which NA communities can communicate, cooperate, and grow with one another. Although not a part of NA's formal decision-making system, world services and zonal forums interact in many ways.

NA World Services (NAWS)

World services are those services which deal with the needs of NA as a whole, and which NA offers to its members, its groups, and to society. The basic purposes of our world services are communication, coordination, information, and guidance. We provide these services so that our groups and members can more successfully carry the message of recovery, and so that our program of recovery can be made more available to addicts everywhere.

ALPHABET SOUP

Terms you may hear

TERM	ALTERNATIVE USED	TERM	DEFINITION
ASC			Area Service Committee
ASR	RCM		Area Service Representative
BOD			Board of Directors
C AR			Conference Agenda Report
CAT			Conference Approval Track
GSR			Group Service Representative
GSRA			Group Service Representative Alternate
H & I			Hospitals and Institutions
IP			Informational Pamphlet
MNNAC			Minnesota Narcotics Anonymous Convention
MNRSC			Minnesota Regional Service Committee
MZF			Mid West Zonal Forum
NA			Narcotics Anonymous
NAWS			Narcotics Anonymous World Services
PI			Public Information
RCM	ASR		Regional Committee Member
RD	RSR		Regional Delegate
RDA			Regional Delegate Alternate
RSC			Regional Service Committee
RSR	RD		Regional Service Representative
UMSO			Upper Midwest Service Office
WAHA			Wee Are Here Area
WB			World Board
WSC			World Service Conference
WSO			World Service Office

TWELVE TRADITIONS OF NA

WE KEEP WHAT WE HAVE ONLY WITH VIGILANCE, AND JUST AS FREEDOM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL COMES FROM THE TWELVE STEPS, FREEDOM FOR THE GROUPS SPRINGS FROM OUR TRADITIONS. AS LONG AS THE TIES THAT BIND US TOGETHER ARE STRONGER THAN THOSE THAT WILL TEAR US APART, ALL WILL BE WELL.

1. OUR COMMON WELFARE SHOULD COME FIRST; PERSONAL RECOVERY DEPENDS ON NA UNITY.
2. FOR OUR GROUP PURPOSE THERE IS BUT ONE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY—A LOVING GOD AS HE MAY EXPRESS HIMSELF IN OUR GROUP CONSCIENCE. OUR LEADERS ARE BUT TRUSTED SERVANTS, THEY DO NOT GOVERN.
3. THE ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP IS A DESIRE TO STOP USING.
4. EACH GROUP SHOULD REMAIN AUTONOMOUS, EXCEPT IN MATTERS AFFECTING OTHER GROUPS OR NA AS A WHOLE.
5. EACH GROUP HAS BUT ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE--TO CARRY THE MESSAGE TO THE ADDICT WHO STILL SUFFERS.
6. AN NA GROUP OUGHT NEVER ENDORSE, FINANCE OR LEND THE NA NAME TO ANY RELATED FACILITY OR OUTSIDE ENTERPRISE, LEST PROBLEMS OF MONEY, PROPERTY OR PRESTIGE DIVERT US FROM OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE.
7. EVERY NA GROUP OUGHT TO BE FULLY SELF-SUPPORTING, DECLINING OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS.
8. NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS SHOULD REMAIN FOREVER NON-PROFESSIONAL, BUT OUR SERVICE CENTERS MAY EMPLOY SPECIAL WORKERS.
9. NA, AS SUCH OUGHT NEVER BE ORGANIZED, BUT WE MAY CREATE SERVICE BOARDS OR COMMITTEES DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE THEY SERVE.
10. NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS HAS NO OPINION ON OUTSIDE ISSUES, HENCE THE NA NAME OUGHT NEVER TO BE DRAWN INTO PUBLIC CONTROVERSY.
11. OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY IS BASED ON ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION; WE NEED ALWAYS MAINTAIN PERSONAL ANONYMITY AT THE LEVEL OF PRESS, RADIO AND FILM.
12. ANONYMITY IS THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION OF ALL OUR TRADITIONS, EVER REMINDING US TO PLACE PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES.

TWELVE CONCEPTS OF NA SERVICE

1. TO FULFILL OUR FELLOWSHIP'S PRIMARY PURPOSE, THE NA GROUPS HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO CREATE A STRUCTURE WHICH DEVELOPS, COORDINATES, AND MAINTAINS SERVICES ON BEHALF OF NA AS A WHOLE.
2. THE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY FOR NA SERVICES REST WITH THE NA GROUPS.
3. THE NA GROUPS DELEGATE TO THE SERVICE STRUCTURE THE AUTHORITY NECESSARY TO FULFILL THE RESPONSIBILITIES ASSIGNED TO IT.
4. EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP IS HIGHLY VALUED IN NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS. LEADERSHIP QUALITIES SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED WHEN SELECTING TRUSTED SERVANTS.
5. FOR EACH RESPONSIBILITY ASSIGNED TO THE SERVICE STRUCTURE, A SINGLE POINT OF DECISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY SHOULD BE CLEARLY DEFINED.
6. GROUP CONSCIENCE IS THE SPIRITUAL MEANS BY WHICH WE INVITE A LOVING GOD TO INFLUENCE OUR DECISIONS.
7. ALL MEMBERS OF A SERVICE BODY BEAR SUBSTANTIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT BODY'S DECISIONS AND SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.
8. OUR SERVICE STRUCTURE DEPENDS ON THE INTEGRITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS.
9. ALL ELEMENTS OF OUR SERVICE STRUCTURE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER ALL VIEWPOINTS IN THEIR DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES.
10. ANY NA MEMBER OF A SERVICE BODY CAN PETITION THAT BODY FOR THE REDRESS OF A PERSONAL GRIEVANCE, WITHOUT FEAR OF REPRISAL.
11. NA FUNDS ARE TO BE USED TO FURTHER OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE, AND MUST BE MANAGED RESPONSIBLY.
12. IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRITUAL NATURE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, OUR STRUCTURE SHOULD ALWAYS BE ONE OF SERVICE NEVER OF GOVERNMENT.